Anti-drink propaganda for next year.

*247 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the anti-drink propaganda work will be continued next year;

(b) whether any change in the policy or programme of this work is being contemplated; and

(c) what amount is proposed to be provided for it in the next budget?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether this matter was placed before the Finance Committee and, if so, what the Committee's decision is?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The Finance Committee decided to reduce the amount of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs to 2 lakhs and they recommended that the question should be more thoroughly considered so as to make the propaganda more effective."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government are considering this matter after the Finance Committee has given a decision on it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Yes, there is a resolution tabled on this subject which will come up for discussion to-day."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know whether the Government are prepared to abide by the verdict of this Council on the question of prohibition which is to be discussed to-day?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The question is hypothetical."

Finance

Retrenchment in expenses on administration.

*248 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposals for retrenchment in the expenses of administration and if so, in what direction and to what extent?

A.—The Government have not at present under consideration any proposals for general retrenchment.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know what is the expected deficit for the next year?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"The hon. Member will have full information when the Budget is presented."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the fact that there is a deficit, in view of the fact that it is now many years since retrenchment was effected and in view of the fact that during the last so many years the posts that were abolished according to the recommendations of the last Retrenchment Committee have been restored, may I know whether the Government will be willing to appoint a Retrenchment Committee now?"

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The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"If the financial situation requires it, the Government will be willing to do it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether the present financial deficit of 60 lakhs under excise revenue alone does not require it?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"Not at present; if the financial stringency continues, we may have to take to that course."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"If there is to be a deficit in next year's budget, will the Government be prepared to reduce the cost of administration?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"In that case we may have to do so."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether there is any proposal now before the Government to reduce the salary of all officers drawing a sum of Rs. 1,000 and over by 12½ per cent?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"The Government are not aware of any such proposal."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"Whether it is a fact that, during the time of Lord Willingdon, he cut down expenditure on administration by 2½ per cent?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"It may be so, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—"Will the Government consider seriously the question of retrenchment?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—"I have already answered that question."

Floods

Repairs to tanks damaged by floods in Cheyyar and Wandiwash taluks.

*249 Q.—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Public Works Department tanks that have been breached or otherwise affected by the recent rain and cyclone in the Cheyyar and Wandiwash taluks of the North Arcot district;

(*b*) what steps have been taken by the Public Works Department to ascertain the extent of damage and to repair such damage;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that while the Revenue Department has already commenced to repair the minor irrigation tanks in its charge, the Public Works Department has not yet moved in the matter;

(*d*) if the answer to question (*c*) is in the affirmative, the reasons for such delay; and

(*e*) whether Government will consider the desirability of instructing the Public Works Department to complete all repairs to affected tanks in time to receive the water-supply at least for the next monsoon?

A.—(*a*) 115 in Cheyyar and 65 in Wandiwash.

(*b*) *to* (*e*) The local officers have already arranged to put in hand such urgent works as can be taken up with the existing establishment. The Government have also sanctioned a special staff of five supervisors for the repair of flood damages in the district.